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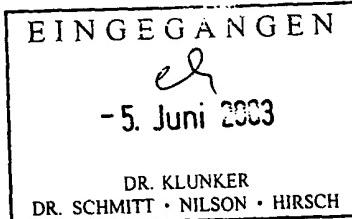
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Datum/Date
05.06.03

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

K 53 659/7ch

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°./Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

01124054.6-2304-

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire
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COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

- Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

abstract

title

- The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1



REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 12 4054

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 970 215 A (STEPHENSON STANLEY W) 19 October 1999 (1999-10-19) * column 2, line 19 - column 6, line 10 * ---	1-8	B41J2/447
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 008, no. 042 (P-256), 23 February 1984 (1984-02-23) & JP 58 193522 A (EPUSON KK; OTHERS: 01), 11 November 1983 (1983-11-11) * abstract * ---	1-8	
X	US 4 334 734 A (HARENG MICHEL ET AL) 15 June 1982 (1982-06-15) * the whole document * ---	1-8	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 008, no. 037 (M-277), 17 February 1984 (1984-02-17) & JP 58 193175 A (SUWA SEIKOSHA KK), 10 November 1983 (1983-11-10) * abstract * ---	1-8	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
1	Place of search MUNICH	Date of completion of the search 22 May 2003	Examiner Bridge, S
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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